

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1175

To locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, an American citizen,
and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 1999

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DIXON, Mr. DREIER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. FROST, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HORN, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. KELLY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. LAZIO, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MASCARA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MOORE, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. STUMP, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. TALENT, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. ROTHMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, an
American citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (a) Zachary Baumel, an American citizen serv-
6 ing in the Israeli military forces, has been missing
7 in action since June 1982 when he was captured by
8 forces affiliated with the Palestinian Liberation Or-
9 ganization (PLO) following a tank battle with Syr-
10 ian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon;

11 (b) Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman, Israeli citi-
12 zens serving in the Israeli military forces, have been
13 missing in action since June 1982 when they were
14 also captured by these same forces in a tank battle
15 with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon;

16 (c) these three soldiers were last known to be
17 in the hands of a Palestinian faction splintered from
18 the PLO and operating in Syrian-controlled terri-
19 tory, thus making this a matter within the responsi-
20 bility of the Government of Syria;

21 (d) diplomatic efforts to secure their release
22 have been unsuccessful, although PLO Chairman
23 Yasser Arafat delivered one-half of Zachary
24 Baumel's dog tag to Israeli Government authorities;
25 and

1 (e) in the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the
2 Palestinian Authority and the Government of Israel
3 of May 4, 1994, Palestinian officials agreed to co-
4 operate with Israel in locating and working for the
5 return of Israeli soldiers missing in action.

6 **SEC. 2. ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

7 (a) The Department of State shall raise the matter
8 of Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman on
9 an urgent basis with appropriate government officials of
10 Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and with other
11 governments in the region and other governments else-
12 where which in the Department's view may be helpful in
13 locating and securing the return of these soldiers.

14 (b) Decisions with regard to United States economic
15 and other forms of assistance to Syria, Lebanon, the Pal-
16 estinian Authority, and other governments in the region
17 and United States policy towards these governments and
18 authorities should take into consideration the willingness
19 of these governments and authorities to assist in locating
20 and securing the return of these soldiers.

21 **SEC. 3. REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

22 (a) Ninety days after the enactment of this legisla-
23 tion, the Department of State shall deliver a report in
24 writing to the Congress detailing its consultations with
25 governments pursuant to section 2(a) of this Act and

1 United States policies affected pursuant to section 2(b)
2 of this Act. This report shall be a public document. The
3 report may include a classified annex.

4 (b) After the initial report to the Congress, the De-
5 partment of State shall report in writing within 15 days
6 whenever any additional information from any source re-
7 lating to these individuals arises. Such report shall be a
8 public document. The report may include a classified
9 annex.

10 (c) The reports to the Congress identified in para-
11 graph (a) and (b) above shall be made to the Committee
12 on International Relations of the House of Representa-
13 tives and to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
14 Senate.

○